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of the Norwegian people. We are a small nation, that is true, of no great consequence in the world perhaps, whatever we ourselves may think, but still we are a nation, and we beg for nothing, we only ask for our right to exist. We consider it our duty to remain neutral and do our best to keep out of the war. We think that in this way we may also do the greatest service to the world.

We are of those who, in spite of all,

Never doubted clouds would break,  
Never dreamed, though rights were worsted, wrong would triumph,  
Held we fall to rise, are baffled to fight better,  
Sleep to wake.

May all humanity awaken after this terrible crisis—I think the most serious one in the whole history of the world—may we awaken to see that there is one great purpose in life and that is not *destruction* of others, it is *development* of oneself, of all one's possibilities; that there is one high ideal of existence. Its name is not *power*, its name is *justice*!

## SOUTH AMERICA'S AVAILABLE FOOD SUPPLY

BY HIS EXCELLENCY, SENOR DON IGNACIO CALDERON,

The Bolivian Minister.

All know that South America is a very vast continent, full of possibilities and great in resources, where ten independent republics are established, each one with its own characteristics; therefore, to speak of South America as a unit is misleading and inaccurate.

For instance, if we say that South America produces a great deal of wheat, it would mean that wheat is produced for export in all the countries. That is not the case. Wheat is not produced for export except in Argentine. If we say that tin is exported from South America, we also make a wrong statement, because tin is produced only in Bolivia, which gives to the world one-third of the production of that mineral. Therefore, it is not correct to say that tin is produced in South America.

I am going to give you a review of the exportable food resources of each of the countries in South America.

Agriculture is not very much developed in those republics

for the simple reason that they are wanting in means of easy and cheap transportation, which is an element very important in agriculture. Argentine is the only country in South America that, because of its advantageous geographical position and the lack of mountains, being entirely flat, and because it receives thousands of immigrants every year, has been able to develop its agricultural resources. Argentine exports every year large amounts of wheat, corn and barley. These same cereals are produced in small quantities in other countries. Rice is exported in small quantities from Peru and Brazil. Chile produces and exports some barley and oats and what they call frijoles, which is a kind of bean.

Coffee, as you all know, is the great staple article of Brazil; in fact, is the main export from Brazil. Venezuela and Colombia also export some large quantities of coffee; and Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia are also producers of it and export it in small quantities.

Cocoa is the staple product and the main export from Ecuador. Ecuador produces most of the cocoa that is used in the world. Venezuela, Colombia and also Brazil may be counted as providers and exporters of cocoa in smaller amounts.

Peru manufactures and sends out a great deal of sugar, and Argentine will perhaps soon be able to export it because the manufacture of sugar is improving, at the present time being only enough for home consumption.

These are the principal articles of agricultural production that are actually available in South America. Then of course, we have to count the tropical fruits, like bananas, oranges, pineapples and different kinds of nuts that are exported from the tropical countries, like Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela.

The products I have mentioned are simply those that are available for consumption in the present emergency all over the world. Each country produces different kinds of vegetables and cereals that are not exported, and therefore it is not necessary to mention them.

Argentine and Uruguay are the great centers of meat supply. In both countries there are millions of cattle. Chilled and frozen meats and jerked beef are exported in large quantities to all parts of the world. In the northern part of South America, that is to say, in Venezuela and Colombia, there is also an abundance of cattle. Beef is exported on the hoof to the West Indies. These two countries, as well as the southern countries, like Brazil, Paraguay and

Bolivia, have extensive grazing grounds where millions of cattle can be raised.

In fact, Bolivia, whose territory comprises more than seven hundred thousand square miles, has roaming, in the section neighboring to Argentine, Paraguay and Brazil, thousands of wild cattle in its vast grazing fields. They have already received the attention of the people in this country. I often receive letters from western farmers asking detailed information about the grazing grounds in Bolivia. Southern Argentine and Chile are developing a large sheep raising industry. There are great flocks in Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego.

This supply of meat is very interesting to the United States. If we take into consideration that from 1907 to 1917, the stock of cattle in this country has diminished, according to statistics, at least ten million heads, while the population increased more than fifteen million, it is a fortunate thing that in the great plains of Colombia and Venezuela, which have splendid grazing grounds, cattle could be raised in great numbers, just as in the other countries I have already mentioned, thus making it possible to supply the deficiency in this country.

Such is the summary of the products that South America could furnish to the world under the present circumstances.

Of course, many of the countries of South America import great quantities of flour from the United States. We in Bolivia import every year from twenty to thirty thousand tons of flour. It seems a shame that we have to import flour when we have such a fine climate and plenty of wheat. But transportation is too expensive and therefore, with the railroads that have been built lately in the neighboring countries and the cheap ocean freights, the American wheat can go to Bolivia cheaper than the native wheat can be transported a few hundred miles on mule back.

The facility of communication, the cheapness and the promptness of transportation, have so knitted the nations of the world that they have grown to depend on each other and to receive whatever is needed and to sell whatever they have to export. In this way, little by little, the extension of commerce and good-will among all the peoples has progressed almost to the extent of making the whole world into one single community.

But unfortunately, this condition of affairs has lately been abso-

lutely disorganized. War is desolating mankind. An autocrat filled with the crazy ambition of submitting the world to the dominion of might and military rule has trampled down the most sacred traditions and principles of international law. To accomplish his purpose is waging a war unique for its barbarism, inhumanity and immorality, cities have been burned, monuments of art that are the glory and pride of mankind have been wantonly destroyed, entire populations taken and brought away from their homes, women outraged, little children left homeless and without protection, the high seas turned into a bandit's lair to attack merchant ships and destroy them, and defenseless passengers drowned without mercy. It seems as if the author of this great calamity is bent on following literally the threat of his predecessor, Attila, who boasted that where the hoof of his horse trod, no blade of grass would ever grow.

No man with a heart, no nation mindful of its dignity and the conception of its life, will stand this wanton challenge to mankind. The United States has been compelled to put the whole weight of its immense financial resources and man power into the struggle, to defend its rights and vindicate the rights of mankind.

Its action will no doubt hasten victory, and I think will shorten this conflict. The day is not far when this night of horror and misery will be succeeded by the beautiful light of justice; and having thoroughly crushed military power and autocratic rule, the nations of the world will once more in peace and freedom resume their onward march, and preceded by the unsullied flag of the stars and stripes will advance toward progress and the attainment of the greatest ideals of mankind.